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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1950

SUBJECT V-Weapons Activities in
the Russian Zone

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS. 1*(2 pages)
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1. Source learned from an acquaintance of his, a railway official in [redacted], that special freight cars for the transportation of V-missiles were being built at the GOTHA railroad repair shop in February 1949. The informant of source had worked on such cars. These cars were similar to the standard freight cars in use by the German state railways, but they were specially reinforced. Each of the cars was equipped with a special device for the transportation of one or two V-missiles. The car also had devices for the fixing of a large tarpaulin to cover the entire car. Source could not estimate the number of special cars produced or the current output. The informant allegedly learned from an engineer, that these cars were designed for the shipping of V-missiles.**
2. Soviet units began to demolish the remaining galleries in the NIEDERSACHS-WERFEN (M 52/D 13) chemical V-weapons plant in mid-September 1949. The Soviet engineers quartered in NIEDERSACHS-WERFEN had left for an undetermined destination. The plant machinery still available was loaded and shipped in the direction of MAGDEBURG in September 1949. These operations were performed under the strictest Soviet control.**

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3. The few German workers who were employed for loading operations stated in September 1949 that the machinery was scheduled to be installed in PEENEMUENDE (N 55/P 83).**
4. Source learned in April 1949 that the still intact installations of the SONDERSHAUSEN (N 52/D 11) V-weapons plant were dismantled in late January 1949 by special Soviet details with the help of German technicians. The dismantled machinery was loaded on freight cars and shipped away.

Most of the machines were allegedly used for the production of launching equipment. Most of the technical personnel of the plant are said to have left with the shipment.

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There is no longer any production in the former V-weapons plant in SONDERSHAUSEN.***

5. Source was in DESSAU (N 52/E 17) in mid-April 1949. On Easter Sunday and Easter Monday there were large Soviet air maneuvers in that district. Source observed that weapons which greatly resembled V-2 weapons, were used in these maneuvers. He had seen the V-2 in 1944 and up to early 1945 while serving with the German Army in TANGHERUENDE. Source believed that these missiles were manufactured in Upper Silesia because, according to statements by refugees, a V-weapons plant was captured by the Soviets when they occupied this province.

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6. Immediately after the PEENEMUENDE test station was occupied by the Soviets all machinery found there was dismantled and shipped away by rail or ship. Source had to pack individual parts in the fall of 1948.

The entire installation, except for test stands P4, P8 and P12, was demolished. The entire plant seemed to be one great heap of ruins, and only seven small buildings were left in PEENEMUENDE. Otherwise the entire district was deserted. All approach roads to the Test Station are said to have been demolished. The PEENEMUENDE power station was still in operation in the fall of 1948.

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When source was asked of the possibility of resumed production in PEENEMUENDE, he said he did not believe it possible because everything was demolished in PEENEMUENDE. ø

7. Requisitions for material and money were received from the former German test laboratory in RECHLIN-LUERITZ (N 54/U 24) and from PEENEMUENDE in the summer of 1949. These requisitions were processed by the SIA. As an example the Soviet staff of engineers in PEENEMUENDE sent a requisition for 4.5 hundredweights of pure crystallized saccharin. Because of such requests the SIA sent out 15 orders to the IG-Farben (Dyestuff Plants Corp.) for the delivery of aniline dyes and other chemicals.

The production of V-weapons was said to be already under way in the summer of 1949. One hundred and forty German engineers who were employed in German test laboratories during the war had been forced by the Soviets to continue work in their respective fields. øø

8. Annexes 1 and 2 are copies of SIA orders No. 458 and 467 relating to activities in the PEENEMUENDE test plant. øøø

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Comment:

* a. The GOTHIA production of special railroad cars designed for the shipping of V-missiles is also considered credible for 1948. The production of similar cars was reported for the "Podyomnik" Plant in MOSCOW.

** b. The demolition of the galleries of the former "Mittelwerk" in NIEDERSACHSWERFEN near NORDHAUSEN was begun immediately after the dismantling and transfer of this plant in 1947. It is credible that these demolitions extended until September 1949. The plant was not a "chemical plant" but an assembly plant for V-missiles and power plants (jet and internal combustion engines). The shipping of the dismantled machinery to PEENEMUENDE was called a rumor by source.

*** c. The Brunnquell & Co Firm, which later became Plant IV of the Central Plant in BLEICHHAUSEN, is located in SONDERSHAUSEN. The plant, a factory for electrical apparatuses, was confiscated in 1946, and became a nationalized enterprise in May 1947. Only one section of this plant was detached as an independent plant under the designation "Elektrobau" and worked for the Soviets. Steering devices for rockets were manufactured there. The mentioned transfer of the plant probably concerns this special section of the factory.

Ø d. The data contained in this paragraph has been confirmed by several sources.

ØØ e. Resumption of work in the PEENEMUENDE test plant and in RECHLIN was simultaneously reported in late September 1949 by various BERLIN and foreign papers.

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action. The reports were based on statements made by a V-weapons specialist who allegedly fled from Soviet Russia to Western Germany. Some of the newspapers reported that the production in PEENEMUENDE was again in full swing while others, more cautious, stated that the villages on the Isle of Usedom had been ordered evacuated in September because the Soviets intended to rebuild the V-weapons plant there. The alleged reconstruction work in PEENEMUENDE for the resumption of the production of V-missiles has not been confirmed by any source.

ØØØ f. The authenticity of the two copies of SMA orders is doubted. According to available information, the copies are falsifications produced by certain BERLIN agencies for sale to interested intelligence agencies.

2 Annexes: Copies of SMA Orders No. 458 and 467